

Appl. No. : 09/659,999
Filed : September 12, 2000

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-6 and 8 over Urani combined with Bixler alone, or Urani combined with both Bixler and Call. These Claims are all cancelled with this amendment, and new Claims 9-15 are added.

New independent Claims 9 and 11 state that the first and second side terminals are pre-assembled in first and second side housings respectively such that at least a large majority of the connection end of each wire is enclosed within each respective housing so as to provide protection from damage prior to complete fuse connection box assembly.

In the Office Action, specifically in the Response to Arguments section beginning on Page 4, the Examiner argues that Urani shows a large majority of the first and second side terminals being enclosed within the respective housings. However, Urani only shows such a configuration after the fuse connection box is completed by joining the halves. This is shown in Figure 1 of Urani. The remaining disclosure of Urani shows terminals either fully free of the housings, or at most, in Figure 4, both terminals resting openly on one of the side housings.

In the present invention, the terminals are substantially enclosed as a result of the pre-assembly, not as a result of the final step of joining the halves to form the fuse connection box. Independent Claims 9 and 11 have been drafted to clarify this aspect of the invention.

Bixler, as acknowledged by the Examiner in the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action, does not show enclosing terminals during pre-assembly of housing halves. As applicant demonstrated in the previous amendment and response, Bixler does not even show pre-assembling terminals, but only pre-assembling insulated wires onto "guide members."

Thus, neither Urani, Bixler, nor any of the other prior art of record teaches or suggests pre-assembling fuse connection terminals in respective side housings such that the pre-assembling step substantially encloses and protects the terminals before complete fuse connection box assembly. Even if the terminals of Urani were pre-placed into opposite housing halves, which the applicant asserts is still not suggested by Bixler as asserted by the Examiner, such a pre-assembly would fail to meet the limitations of the new claims.

As the remaining claims are dependent on either Claim 9 or 11, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also in condition for allowance for at least the above stated reasons.

Appl. No. : 09/659,999
Filed : September 12, 2000

CONCLUSION

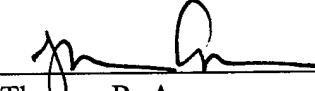
Applicant has endeavored to address all of the Examiner's concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, amendments to the claims, the reasons therefor and arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claims are presented above. In light of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested. If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 4/28/04

By: 
Thomas R. Arno
Registration No. 40,490
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(619) 235-8550

S:\DOCS\TRA\TRA-1204.DOC
042104